

National Transportation Safety Board  
Washington, DC 20594

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Brief of Accident

Adopted 05/29/2007

DEN07CA070							
File No. 21439	02/09/2007	Ingalls, KS	Aircraft Reg No. N5737M	Time (Local): 22:30 CST			
Make/Model:	Mooney Acft Corp. / M20K			Fatal	Serious	Minor/None	
Engine Make/Model:	Continental / TSIO-360		Crew	0	0	1	
Aircraft Damage:	Substantial		Pass	0	0	0	
Number of Engines:	1						
Operating Certificate(s):	None						
Type of Flight Operation:	Personal						
Reg. Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation						
Last Depart. Point: SAN DIEGO, CA				Condition of Light: Night			
Destination: GARDEN CITY, KS				Weather Info Src: Weather Observation Facility			
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip				Basic Weather: Instrument Conditions			
				Lowest Ceiling: 400 Ft. AGL, Overcast			
				Visibility: 3.00 SM			
				Wind Dir/Speed: 110 / 006 Kts			
				Temperature (°C): -3			
				Precip/Obscuration: Mist			
Pilot-in-Command	Age: 62			Flight Time (Hours)			
Certificate(s)/Rating(s)				Total All Aircraft: 837			
Private; Single-engine Land				Last 90 Days: 22			
				Total Make/Model: 697			
Instrument Ratings				Total Instrument Time: 110			
Airplane							

According to the pilot, he was diverting to another airport, after attempting an instrument approach at his original destination. The pilot reported that, " the engine started to sputter again, then quit. I was out of fuel." The pilot performed a forced landing to a field, resulting in substantial damage. An examination of the airplane's systems, conducted by the FAA, revealed no anomalies.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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Ingalls, KS

Aircraft Reg No. N5737M

Time (Local): 22:30 CST

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Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL

Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION
3. (C) REFUELING - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - BELOW APPROACH/LANDING MINIMUMS

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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

5. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

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The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.

The pilot's inadequate in-flight planning and decision making, and failure to refuel while en route, resulting in loss of engine power during cruise due to fuel exhaustion. Contributing to the accident was the poor weather at the pilot's destination.